

70. (New) A method as defined in Claim 69, wherein the user is authenticated by a password.

71. (New) A method as defined in Claim 69, wherein the user is authenticated by biometric data.

72. (New) A method as defined in Claim 69, wherein the user is authenticated by a key.

73. (New) A method as defined in Claim 65, further comprising:

dynamically adjusting the local policy.

Remarks:

In the Office Action, original Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11-21, 27-30 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,532,690 (Hertel). Claims 4, 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated over Hertel in combination with United States Patent No. 5,223,844 (Mansell). Claims 8, 22-26, 31-45, 47-60 and 62-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hertel in combination with United States Patent No. 5,557,254 (Johnson).

By this Response Claims 1, 41 and 51 have been amended, and Claims 21-30 have been cancelled. In addition, Claims 65-73 are newly presented.

Applicants' independent Claims 1, 31, 41, 51, 61 and 65 are respectively directed to an apparatus (Claims 1 and 61), a method (Claims 31, 51 and 65), and a system (Claim 41) in which information is conveyed to "central agency," (or "external

agent" or "remote agent device") that indicates a failure to comply with a local policy. In one embodiment, the information may be location information of, for example, a vehicle. The central agency, for example, determines whether the information, although noncompliant with local policy, is nonetheless compliant with a "remote" policy. If so, the apparatus is enabled. Because none of the cited references, nor any tenable combination of, or modification to, them disclose or suggest this feature, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 31, 41, 51 and 65 are patentable over the cited art.

Claims 2-19, 32-40, 42-50, 52-60, 62-64 and 66-73 depend respectively, from Claims 1, 31, 41, 51, 61 and 65 and are, for at least this reason, likewise patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of these Remarks, the subject application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/24/03



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APPENDIX

In the following, material to be inserted is indicated in underlined boldface type and material to be deleted is indicated by bold face type enclosed in brackets.

1 1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a functional unit;
3 a location determination device;
4 a local policy enforcement device coupled to the
5 location determination device and to the functional unit; and
6 a communication interface coupled to the local policy
7 enforcement device to transmit to a central agency information
8 related to a failure to meet a local policy and to receive from
9 the central agency an enablement signal if the information
10 complies with a remote policy.

1 31. A method of operating an apparatus, the method
2 comprising:
3 [(A)] performing authentication of an attempted user
4 of the apparatus;
5 [(B)] if the user is determined to be not authorized
6 to use the apparatus,
7 [(B.1)] disabling the apparatus; and
8 [(C)] if the user is determined to be authorized to
9 use the apparatus,
10 [(C.1)] determining a location of the apparatus,
11 [(C.2)] checking whether the location complies
12 with a local policy administered by the apparatus,
13 [(C.3)] if the location complies with the local
14 policy,
15 [(C.3.a)] enabling the apparatus, and

16 [(C.4)] if the location does not comply with the
17 local policy,
18 [(C.4.a)] inquiring of an external agent
19 whether the location complies with a remote policy administered
20 by the external agent,
21 [(C.4.b)] if the location complies with the
22 remote policy,
23 [(C.4.b.1)] enabling the apparatus, and
24 [(C.4.c)] if the location does not comply
25 with the remote policy,
26 [(C.4.c.1)] disabling the apparatus.

1 32. The method of claim 31 further comprising:

2 [(B.2)] the remote agent providing an electronic
3 notification to a law enforcement device; and
4 [(C.4.c.2)] the remote agent providing an electronic
5 notification to the law enforcement device;
6 wherein the notifications to the law enforcement
7 device include providing data identifying the location of the
8 apparatus.

1 35. The method of claim 31 further comprising:

2 [(C.4.b.2)] the remote agent registering the location
3 of the apparatus.

1 41. (Amended) A system comprising:

2 a communication link;
3 an appliance including,
4 a functional unit;
5 [means for dis/enabling the functional unit;]
6 a location determination device;

7 a local policy enforcement device coupled to the
8 communication link [, to the means for dis/enabling,] and to the
9 location determination device, the local policy enforcement
10 device to transmit to a remote agent device information related
11 to a failure to meet a local policy; and

12 [a] the remote agent device including,
13 a registry adapted to store information regarding
14 the apparatus; and

15 a remote policy enforcement device coupled to the
16 communication link and to the registry, the remote policy
17 enforcement device to transmit to the apparatus an enablement
18 signal if the device information does not meet a local policy
19 but does meet a remote policy.

1 51. (Amended) A method comprising:

2 [an apparatus] determining [its] a location of an
3 apparatus;

4 the apparatus determining whether the location
5 complies with a local policy;

6 if the location complies with the local policy,
7 enabling the apparatus;

8 if the location does not comply with the local policy,
9 transmitting to a remote device information
10 related to failure of the apparatus to comply with the local
11 policy;

12 a remote device determining whether the location
13 complies with a remote policy;

14 if the location complies with the remote policy,
15 enabling the apparatus,

16 if the location does not comply with the remote
17 policy,

18 disabling the apparatus.

1 61. (Amended) [In an] An apparatus [which includes a
2 functional unit, an improvement] comprising:
3 a functional unit;
4 means for disabling the functional unit;
5 means for identifying a location of the apparatus;
6 means for communicating with a remote agent; and
7 means for checking the location against a local
8 policy[,] and for causing the means for disabling to enable the
9 functional unit if the location complies with the local policy
10 and for causing the means for disabling to [disable] enable the
11 functional unit if the location does not comply with the local
12 policy and the remote agent indicates that the location does
13 comply with a remote policy.